

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): An automobile model comprising:

a pair of left and right driven wheels which are independently driven by different driving sources;

a pair of left and right steered wheels; and

a steered wheel-supporting mechanism which supports the steered wheels such that each steered wheel is adapted to turn around a predetermined steering axis and such that the steered wheels are adapted to turn only in the same direction in association with each other,

wherein the predetermined steering axis is fixedly inclined with respect to a vertical direction such that an upper portion of the steering axis is located rearward of a lower portion of the steering axis in a traveling direction, and

wherein the steered wheel-supporting mechanism is further configured such that, when a speed difference is generated between the driven wheels to turn the automobile model in a turning direction, the steered wheels are naturally steered in the turning direction without any additional steering driving force by a reaction force received from a ground-contact surface.

2. (original): The automobile model according to claim 1, wherein an inclination angle of the steering axis with respect to the vertical direction is set in a range of 20° to 40°.

3. (original): The automobile model according to claim 1, wherein the steered wheel-supporting mechanism supports the steered wheels such that center lines of the steered wheels as

viewed from directly above in a straight-ahead driving state are inclined with respect to the traveling direction.

4. (original): The automobile model according to claim 1, wherein the steered wheel-supporting mechanism supports the steered wheels such that center lines of the steered wheel as viewed from front in the traveling direction in a straight-ahead driving state are inclined with respect to the vertical direction.

5. (original): The automobile model according to claim 1, wherein the steered wheel-supporting mechanism supports the steered wheels such that the left and right steered wheels are adapted to incline in the same direction in association with each other as viewed from front in the traveling direction.

6. (original): The automobile model according to claim 3, wherein the steered wheel-supporting mechanism supports the steered wheels such that center lines of the steered wheel as viewed from front in the traveling direction in a straight-ahead driving state are inclined with respect to the vertical direction.

7. (original): The automobile model according to claim 6, wherein the steered wheel-supporting mechanism supports the steered wheels such that the left and right steered wheels can incline in the same direction in association with each other as viewed from front in the traveling direction.

8. (previously presented): The automobile model according to claim 1, wherein when the steered wheels are naturally steered in the turning direction, a restorative force is generated that urges the wheels to return to a straight-ahead direction.